(b) whether Government has accepted the recommendations of BK Chaturvedi Committee on exit clause and conflict of interest clauses, including increasing the cap to 25 per cent; and

(c) whether Government has now set a target of building 7000 kms highways in year @ 20 km a day?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI R.P.N. SINGH): (a) The Government has finalized Work Plan for award of 122 projects with a total length of 11,947 km. All projects are targeted for award in 2009-10.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir.

Few bids for highway projects

2285. SHRI A. ELAVARASAN: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) awarded only 8 out of 60 road projects floated as majority of the projects did not received any bids in 2008-09;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether these eight projects including the Eastern Peripheral Expressway had received only one bid after many extensions of deadline;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether there is any proposal to form an Empowered Group of Ministers to fast track highway projects to resolve issues related to bidding process; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI R.P.N. SINGH): (a) and (b) Out of 60 projects, bids were received for 22 projects and 7 projects were awarded during 2008-09. In addition, one project of Badarpur elevated highway was also awarded during 2008-09. The details of the projects awarded are given in Statement (*See* below).

(c) and (d) Two or more bids were received for all the awarded 8 projects. Only one bid was received for Eastern Peripheral Expressway which has been cancelled.

(e) and (f) The Government has constituted an Empowered Group of Ministers (EGoM) comprising Finance Minister, Minister of Road Transport and Highways and Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission to consider the financing plan for NHDP for 2010-11 onwards including changes to the work plan as may become necessary. The EGoM will also consider and take decision on all issues where there is no unanimity in committee at the level of officers and which do not require approval of the Cabinet/Cabinet Committee on Infrastructure (CCI).

Statement

Details of projects awarded during 2008-09

Sl.. No	State	Stretch	NH No.	Length (km)	Total Project Cost (Rs in crore)	Mode
1	Tamil Nadu	New 4-Lane Elevated Road from Chennai Port-Maduravoyal	4	19	1345.00	BOT
2	Delhi/Haryana	Badapur Elevated Highway	2	4.4	340.00	BOT
3	Maharashtra	Pimpalgaon-Nasik-Gonde	3	60	940.00	BOT
4	Maharashtra	MP/Maharashtra Border-Dhule	3	98	835.00	BOT
5	Gujarat	Gujarat/Maharashtra Border-Surat-Hazira Port Section	6	132.9	1509.00	BOT
6	Maharashtra	Pune-Sholapur Pkg-I (Approved Length 170 km)	9	110.05	1110.00	BOT
7	Andhra Pradesh	Cuddapah-Mydukur-Kurnool	18	188.75	1585.00	BOT
8	Kerala	Six laning of Vadakkancherry-Thrissuresection	47	30	617.00	BOT

Rise in road accidents

2286. SHRI B.S. GNANADESIKAN: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a steep rise in road accidents in the country and 70 per cent people who died on roads are pedestrians, cyclist and two wheel riders as per a report by Planning Commission;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether lack of enforcement against high speed and drunk driving are the main reasons behind these accidents; and